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gude-man was ta'en frae me, I thought that I was left defenceless; my William grew up, an' he was cut down, like a young aik just coming to its strength; an' now I am bereaved, indeed, said I; but I was justly, yet mercifully, chastised for my mistrust, an' repining; I lost my ability,—an' then my Heavenly Father shewed his kindness in my visitation: my Jenny was then little ither than a bairn; but He proved the widow's stay and the orphan's shield, by raising up friends for me; the best an' kindest, I needna, indeed I'm forbidden, to speak o': I want for naething, an' my lassie is grown up, who does a' in her power to keep me easy."

"Does the minister still call on you?"

"Regularly: he was here last week, an' sees me aye ance in the month; his visits are always pleasant, an' I trust, profitable. He is a faithful servant of his Great Master's; may he have the pleasure, in this world, of seeing the work prosper in his hand, and be the honoured instrument of turning many to righteousness. Besides these visits, I hae many ane frae ither good characters; an' a' the neighbours, young an' auld, down to the very bairns, are fond of auld Margaret."

"How trim and clean your little garden is, and every thing thriving so nicely! Who is your gardener?"

"We got John Wright to dig the ground, an' plant the cabbages an' potatoes; he's a sair working man, an' puts through a job in a wee time; for he was no lang about it: for only thing else, it's a' my lassie's handiwork; an' William Smith, who was in the tither gloamin', says I've the best ingans in a' the village; the lupins, mignoinette, and sweet majorum, too, that Miss Clemy there was so kind as bring the seeds of in her pocket; see how bonny they are, an' sae sweet as they smell! these pinks and roses are so delightfu'! Jenny's a handy an' a thrifty lassie, she tents them a'; up in the morning weeding an' hoeing, syne at her wark by the time that some ither are only rising; an' the blessing o' Providence is upon a' that she does, for you see ilka thing thriving around you."

A passing cloud now threatened a shower, and they conducted Margaret to the cottage.

"Sit down, ladies, till that scrow of a shower gang bye," said the old woman. Observing that they were looking at the furniture, she said: "The house is hardly sae clean the day as ye use to see it, for Jenny's sair hurried just now; she has the har'st rig to attend by sunrise; but she cleans the house, and puts on my claes, ere she gangs out; rins hame at parritch time, an' makes my breakfast; comes again at dinner, an' trips awa' ilka time as light as a lamb, and as blithe as a liltie."

"But I have heard that she is to be married," said Miss Grahame.

"To you, my honoured friends, I needna deny that she might have been in her ain house ere now; but she told Robbie that she wad never leave me alane an' helpless. He kindly offered to tak me wi' her. Na, na, said she; my mither has aye had a house o' her ain aboon her head, an' I sall never be the means o' making her sit down at anither's fire side! An' thus your Ladyship sees that I'm keeping her frae ane wham I ken she loes dearly; yet she's as carefu' an' happy wi' me as if I were a' her stoop and stay in this wark; but I trust she'll no lose her reward. Sae you see, ladies, I've mony mercies, an' gryte cause to be thankfu'; waiting wi' patient resignation, and

not without hope, till it be His pleasure, an' His own good time, to call me hame."

SONNET

On reading Wordsworth's "Excursion."

Me thinks thy song diffuse, mild Wordsworth, seems
Much like some ever-varying landscape, seen
When Fancy triumphs, and Elysian dreams
Show brighter skies, and fields of lovelier green;
Midst castled cliffs, pure streams, and flowrets fair,
The breath of eve seems sweeter in the vale;
Celestial music floats along the air,
Melodious, mingling with the fragrant gale:
Though many an object, richly haloed round,
Is dimly seen in the resplendent haze;
Though strange and new the soft harmonious sound,
Still pleased we listen, still delighted gaze,
And, though bewildered, linger on the plain,
So rich the fairy scene—so sweet the hallowed strain.

DEATH.

When sorrowing friends surround my deathful bed,
While floating shadows to my eyes appear,
And dimly seen those long and fondly dear;
When I, though darkness o'er my sight is spread,
From her whose arm supports my sinking head,
Warm on my cheek, feel soft the tender tear—
The parting drop by fond affection shed;
When stagnant pulse, cold limbs, and panting
breath,
As harbingers, announce approaching death;—
In that dread moment, Lord, in mercy, send
The hope that plucks from Death the dreadful sting;
The faith that says, "Tho' dust with dust must blend,
The spirit shall ascend on viewless wing,
Where sorrow has no place, and life shall neverend!"

Popular Lectures on the Study of Natural History and the Sciences, &c. as delivered before the Isle of Wight Philosophical Society, by W. Lempriere, M. D. second edition.—London, Whittaker, Treacher, and Co. 1830.

We perceive that a taste for the study of Natural History is spreading pretty generally throughout the empire. Institutions in which objects for study are collected, and whose members hold meetings for the discussion of scientific subjects, are already established in most of the larger provincial towns of England. It is to be hoped that the example of the sister country will shortly be followed in Ireland, where materials for the purpose are so very abundant. From the work with the title of which this article is headed, we find that such an institution has been for some time in existence at Newport, in the romantic Isle of Wight, at which it appears that some one of the members delivers a lecture or discourse on some scientific subject, on the occasion of each meeting of the society. The popular lectures contained in this pleasing volume were delivered on such occasions: and without having any personal knowledge of the author, we would strongly recommend their perusal as being calculated to produce a taste for enjoying the pleasure derivable from the contemplation of the works of the Creator, in those persons who may not yet have turned their attention to such subjects, while to those already acquainted with the sciences which they discuss, must be pleased with the eloquent style of the composition. The following extracts will serve as an example:—

"Commencing our observations at the silent hour of night, when all terrestrial objects are obscured under the veil of darkness, and animate nature is sunk into repose; our eyes would be irresistibly directed upwards. And there, the vast expanse of heaven, studded and adorned with innumerable luminaries of various magnitudes and at indefinite distances, each subservient to fixed laws, and formed for purposes beyond all human comprehension, would at

once awaken our curiosity, and prepare us for those still no less wonderful attributes which the divine hand has so liberally and so benevolently bestowed on the universe.

"As these heavenly objects disappeared from our astonished vision, our attention would be instinctively directed to the eastern horizon, now gradually enlightened by the approach of a new luminary of far greater magnitude and powers than any we had yet contemplated;—too vivid, indeed, to be examined by our weaker sight, but whose influence is at once brought home to our senses and conviction—bestowing light, life, and activity upon all nature, and at once displaying a scene of unparalleled grandeur and comprehensiveness—such a variety and order of things—so many causes and effects—so much contrivance with useful results—and such a subservience to one grand system, as at once with language irresistible to bespeak the omnipotence of the Creator, and to sink all human attributes into comparative nothingness and insignificance.

"In every direction we should observe something on which to fix our attention or to awaken our curiosity, to elevate and add dignity to our sentiments, or to call forth our most unqualified devotion. Countries of unbounded extent, a very limited proportion of which can be embraced by our imperfect vision, would present to our observation, in some parts, mountains of almost interminable elevation, whose summits are enveloped in perpetual snow; with corresponding vallies, whose abysses cannot be contemplated without horror. In others, more moderate elevations, which, while they add variety to the scene, attract and give direction to those winds, which, charged with moisture, drop fertilizing showers on the vales below;—or, upon extensive plains, clothed with vegetation in all its shades and varieties, possessing vitality, growth, and the power of regeneration to an indefinite degree; and supporting a still higher class of animate substances which, from the important place they hold in the creation, deserve a separate notice."

The following interesting account of the *Tarantula*, is a specimen of the descriptive part of the work:—

"The *Tarantula*, of the fatal effects of whose poison, and of the influence of music in the cure, so much has been said, is of the spider tribe, possessing, in most particulars, all the characters peculiar to that species of insect. It is a native of Italy, Cyprus, Barbary, and the East Indies: in the two former countries credulity on the one hand, and imposition on the other, have given it a quality which it does not merit: viz. the power of destroying human life by its bite, unless timely prevented by the most fascinating music. Accordingly, travellers in those countries have furnished us with a number of amusing anecdotes, strongly illustrative of the effects of superstition on the human mind, when unenlightened by the beams of science, or where tradition has closed the door to reason and the most obvious conviction. These anecdotes, which must be familiar to every reading person, we do not deem necessary here to detail; but shall merely observe, that the bite of the tarantula is never inflicted but when accidentally irritated; and though it always produces most severe pain, swelling, and discoloration of the part, and in constitutions of particular irritability, fainting fits, spasmodic affections, and even convulsions; yet it has in no instance, within my

experience, (founded upon a four years' residence in the south part of Europe and in Barbary,) proved fatal; nor could I learn from others, that such an effect was ever produced; the symptoms being readily removed by the remedies, which I shall hereafter describe as being efficacious in the bites or stings of other venomous insects.

"This animal, which, like other spiders, is made up of two divisions united by a slender thread, the one consisting of the head and breast, the other of the belly, rather exceeds an inch in length, and is of an ash colour on its breast, belly, and legs, and underneath is distinguished by blackish rings. It has eight legs united like that of a lobster; and eight eyes, two of which are red, are larger than the others, and are placed in front: four others are placed transversely towards the mouth; the other two are nearer the back. This number of eyes seems necessary in an animal whose existence depends upon its activity and vigilance; and particularly as the eyes are immovable in the socket, and therefore cannot, when required, turn in different directions.

"Its poisonous mechanism consists of two nippers or fangs on the fore part of the head with strong points; toothed like a saw, and terminating in claws like those of a cat. A little below the point of the claw, there is a small hole through which the animal emits the poison; and from this apparatus, its means of attack and defence are derived.

"It is stated to prefer the bare fields for its haunts, where the lands are fallow; but I have seen it near houses, and within the yards, and sometimes even in the adjoining apartments.

"According to Bingley, it lays between seven and eight hundred eggs, which are hatched in the spring; the parents being very short lived, and seldom surviving the winter. Like other spiders, it makes a net or wall round its dwelling, which is generally about four inches deep in the ground, and half an inch wide."

Bertha's Visit to her Uncle in England, 3 vols. London, Murray, 1830.

THIS is not, as might possibly be supposed from the title, an exhibition, real or fictitious, of the odd impressions that might arise in the mind of a stranger to our habits and institutions, on a first introduction to European society. Such works have often been composed by eminent authors, and answered the end of amusing English readers very successfully. Witness the popularity of Montesquieu's Persian Letters, Goldsmith's Citizen of the World, and more recently Espritella's Letters by Doctor Southey, and Hajji Baba in England. The plan of the present work is that of a supposed series of extracts from the journal of a young lady, visiting England to be educated along with her cousins, and writing home to her mother in Brazil, an account of all the remarkable things she saw, read, or learnt during her residence in her uncle's family. As a journal of each day's occupations and acquirements is given separately, the Sundays afford an opportunity for instruction in religious knowledge; as the other six do, for the various branches of physiology, geology, description of places and things, and in short every department of civil information which might be supposed to come within the province of an intelligent and well-taught young lady. This outline is skilfully filled up,

and both in the number of subjects discussed, and the manner of treating of them, the work reflects great credit on the editor. It has likewise the important advantages of being convenient and attractive in form, and very unusually cheap. We select a passage from the journal, when Bertha is about to set out on a journey from England to Ireland, which will enable our readers to judge of the manner in which this very deserving little work is written. We could easily and willingly cover a great many pages of paper, in refutation of the saucy insinuation implied in the "Even in Ireland," of the first paragraph of our extract, but it is more magnanimous to forbear. At least we shall not take up the cudgels till we can experience

— That stern joy which warriors feel,
When they meet foemen worthy of their steel.

"12th.—The corn fields are coming into ear, the hay harvest is going on, new flowers are springing up; and all the walks and gardens, and shrubberies, are in the highest beauty, and yet we are going to leave this dear place! To-morrow we are to quit Fernhurst and all its happiness! But that is a silly feeling, for we all go together, and surely we may make ourselves happy any where, even in Ireland.—A year ago I was just leaving my dear mamma, and the happy home to which I had been so long accustomed, to place myself among strangers;—and now I am going among still greater strangers—among the Irish. But my uncle says they are a warm-hearted, hospitable people, and that the country is so full of objects of interest, that I shall not have to regret the employments of Fernhurst, nor even my favourite gardening experiments.

"I am happy to tell you, that most of these experiments have succeeded very well as yet: particularly one I have been trying on my dahlias, by budding them on the roots. They have already produced some very flourishing plants, and as the bearing buds were employed, they will blossom this year. I must make you acquainted also with a little bower, which we have all assisted in making in a charming spot; it is canopied with woodbine, and lined with moss; and you might say of it—

"Is this Titania's bower, where fairies play
Their antique revels in the glow-worms' light?
Moss and wild thyme are all the weeds which stray
To pave her palace with a green delight.

"As we were taking our last walk late this evening, we saw the goat-sucker, which is nearly allied to the swallow in its form and habits; though generally larger in size. Frederick, who is my chief preceptor in everything relating to the feathered race, tells me, that, except on very dark, gloomy days, these birds are seldom seen till twilight. That is the time the insects come out which form their principal food; and, he says, it is probable that the extreme sensibility of eyes calculated for that period of the day, could not bear the dazzling light of the sun. Their mode of perching is singular, as they place themselves lengthways on a branch, and not in a cross direction like most other birds. The mouth is uncommonly large, fringed with bristles, and moistened by a glutinous fluid, to which the smaller insects adhere; and you may therefore conceive the destructive powers of this bird, for it flies through their swarms with its voracious jaws wide open, darts in every direction at its larger prey, and swallows all, without ever closing its bill. It is in this last circumstance that it chiefly differs from the martin, the swift, and

the rest of the swallow tribes; for they never open their bills, in flying, but to snap at their prey, and they shut them with a sharp peculiar noise, which every one must have observed.

"There is no end to the variety of names which this bird has acquired in different parts of England—goat-suckers—goat-owl—fern-owl—churn-owl—wheel-bird—dor-hawk—night-jar, &c. In most of these names there is some allusion to its peculiar habits, its haunts, its motions, or its noises, except in the first, which is the commonest and the most absurd of all, as if a goat would allow itself to be sucked by a bird! And yet, however ridiculous, my uncle showed Frederick, in Aristotle and Pliny, that the ancients gave it a similar name.

"I understand that it is not a very common bird here; but we saw it for a considerable time rapidly wheeling round and round a large oak tree, and hawking among the branches in pursuit of the fern-chafer, its favourite food. The hawking of this bird reminds me of an amusing passage in the Persian Sketches:—

"At Shiraz, the Elchee (envoy) received a present of a royal falcon. Before going out, we had been amused at seeing our head falconer put upon this bird a pair of leathers, which he fitted to its thighs with as much care as if he had been the tailor of a fashionable horseman. I inquired the reason of so unusual a proceeding. 'You will learn that,' said the consequential master of hawks, 'when you see our sport.'

"The first hare seized by the falcon was very strout, and the ground rough. While the bird kept the claws of one foot fastened in the back of its prey, the other was dragged along the ground till it had an opportunity to lay hold of a tuft of grass, by which it was enabled to stop the course of the hare, whose efforts to escape would have torn the hawk asunder, if it had not been provided with the leather defences which I have mentioned.

"The next time the falcon was flown gave us a proof of that extraordinary courage which its whole appearance, particularly the eye, denoted. It had stopped and quite disabled a hare by the first pounce, when two greyhounds, which had been slipped by mistake, came up, and endeavoured to seize its prize. They were, however, quickly repulsed by the falcon, and with a boldness that excited our admiration and astonishment."

"And now, dear mamma, I must go and pack up my pretty writing-box which my uncle has given me; it holds paper, and pens, and ink, and pencils, my journal and account-book, and every thing one can want; even a nice little red leather case for colours, which Caroline made for me; and yet it is not above two inches deep. It is quite flat—but I can make a desk of the lid, and as it is to lie in the bottom of the carriage, under our feet, I have put it in a green cloth cover. I was afraid it might be troublesome; but my uncle and aunt know how to make every one comfortable without inconvenience to others.

"This is my last line from dear, happy Fernhurst!

13th June, Worcester.

"This morning, at seven o'clock, we set out on our journey. Every thing had been arranged and packed the day before, so there were no delays in the morning; all were punctual, and I assure you, mamma, that I was ready, and my work-box and travelling-book